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PROGRAM Meet the Press

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SUBJECT Full Text

BILL MONROE: Our guest today on Meet the Press is George Bush, the new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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MONROE: This is Bill Monroe inviting you to Meet the Press with George Bush, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Bush has been in his new job at the CIA for three weeks. He was formerly U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador to China, and before that, Chairman of the Republican National Committee. He's a former Texas congressman and unsuccessful candidate for the Senate from that state.

We'll have the first questions now from Ford Rowan of NBC News.

FORD ROWAN: Mr. Bush, the President's new program for the intelligence agency seeks to prevent leaks and protect secrets by making it a crime for government employees to leak information about intelligence sources and methods. While the legislation is not -- would not impose criminal penalties on the news media, a reporter who received leaked information would be an eyewitness to a crime and could be forced to reveal his sources before a grand jury, or go to jail.

Now, at issue, of course, is whether this new procedure could result in future cover-ups of abuses and crimes by the CIA. Would you be willing to endorse legislation, which has been endorsed by your predecessor, William Colby, which would permit reporters to claim a privilege and not reveal their sources to government investigators?

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